

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Their earlier refusal to allow their stations to air the Ted Koppel feature on the casualties in Iraq is another example.

There is no question but that Sinclair is using their dominant position in broadcasting to pursue a political agenda. There is no other possible un-biased conclusion. If this is allowed to continue, we can become a nation dominated by those in power, who are supported by favor-seekers like Sinclair.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Sincerely,

Stanley Wilson